

ISC - Alberta Region COVID-19

Update for Chiefs: September 15th, 2021



REMINDER on Alberta's Relaunch:

On September 4, the Government of Alberta announced temporary measures to slow COVID-19 transmission. The mandatory measures include:

- Mandatory masking in all indoor public spaces and workplaces
- Mandatory restriction of alcohol service after 10 p.m. in all licensed establishments

Additionally, unvaccinated Albertans are strongly recommended to limit indoor social gatherings to close contacts of only 2 cohort families up to a maximum of 10 people. Employers are recommended to continue work-from-home measures where possible, and to pause or revert plans to have staff return to work. [Isolation is still legally required](#) for people who have COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive. More information about the temporary mandatory and recommended measures, including masking exceptions can be found [here](#).

Ivermectin Does Not Prevent or Treat COVID-19:

Health Canada has received concerning reports of the use of veterinary ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. Canadians should **never** consume health products intended for animals because of the potential serious health dangers posed by them. Health Canada is advising Canadians not to use either the veterinary or human drug versions of ivermectin to prevent or treat COVID-19. There is no evidence that ivermectin in either formulation is safe or effective when used for those purposes. The human version of ivermectin is authorized for sale in Canada only for the treatment of parasitic worm infections in people. The veterinary version of ivermectin, especially at high doses, can be dangerous for humans and may cause serious health problems such as vomiting, diarrhea, low blood pressure, allergic reactions, dizziness, seizures, coma and even death. Ivermectin products for animals have a higher concentrated dose than ivermectin products for people. Health Canada has previously [warned Canadians](#) about products making false and misleading claims to treat or cure COVID-19. For information on Health Canada authorized vaccines and treatments, visit [Canada.ca](#). If you know of anyone who has purchased ivermectin for the prevention or treatment of COVID-19, they should stop using it and discard it. Furthermore you can submit a complaint to Health Canada should you have any information regarding the illegal advertising or sale of ivermectin or any other health product using its online [complaint form](#). Full details [here](#).

Question of the Day

Q: What details are available on the Government of Alberta's \$100 vaccine incentive?

A: The Government of Alberta has announced a new incentive of a \$100 debit card for people 18 years of age and older who have not yet been vaccinated, or who have only received one dose of COVID-19 vaccine. The incentive will be available from September 3 to October 14, 2021. After vaccination, eligible individuals will be able to register online. Alberta Health will validate registrations against provincial immunization data. [This website](#) is now available. If you do not have access to a computer, you can contact 310-0000 for assistance. The \$100 incentive is available to every Alberta resident, including First Nations that receive their immunization from a provider on-reserve.

National Info

[COVID-19 vaccines and Indigenous peoples](#)
[Treaty annuity payments during COVID-19](#)
[COVID-19 resources: social media](#)

Alberta Cases:

as of Sep 14th, 3:30 p.m. MST

AB Total Confirmed (Sep 13 th –1,434 new cases)	272,211
AB Recovered Cases	251,475
Confirmed First Nations On-reserve Cases	10,662
On-reserve Recovered Cases	9,729
On-Reserve Active Cases	835
Calgary Zone Confirmed	107,014
Central Zone Confirmed	25,790
Edmonton Zone Confirmed	89,130
North Zone Confirmed	33,457
South Zone Confirmed	16,733
Unknown Confirmed	87
Deaths due to COVID-19	2,471
On-reserve Deaths due to COVID-19	97
Active Variants of Concern	12,678

Climate Change and Health Adaption Program

This program is designed to build capacity for climate change adaptation by funding community-designed and driven projects. This program funds First Nations and Inuit communities' efforts to build capacity to adapt to the health impacts of climate change. Supporting projects focusing on human health and a changing climate, the program enables communities to develop and implement health-related adaptation or action plans, develop knowledge-building and communication materials and support adaptation decision-making at the local, regional and national levels. The deadline to submit an abstract is **September 24, 2021**. Full details available [here](#).

Regional Snapshot

272,211

cases

39%

Calgary Zone

51%

males

11,377

Hospitalized ever

2,188

ICU ever

2,471

deaths

More Alberta case data can be found [here](#)

Useful Links

Telehealth Session TOMORROW:

- To connect to the session, go to <https://fntn.zoom.us/join> and enter Meeting ID: 819 4185 7381 and Passcode: 417104
- from an audio line, dial 1-587-328-1099 and enter Meeting ID: 819 4185 7381 and Passcode: 417104
- from a videoconference-enabled room, go to www.fntn.ca to register

Questions can be submitted in advance of or during the presentation to VChelp@FNTN.ca, or via Zoom during the presentation. This session will be recorded and posted to www.fntn.ca

Eliminating the AITE Card:

As a reminder, [on October 4th, the province is eliminating Alberta Indian Tax Exemption \(AITE\)](#). The only accepted proof of eligibility for tax-exempt purchases made on reserve in Alberta will be the federal status card.

New card-sized COVID-19 vaccination record

Starting on Sept. 16, Albertans will be able to print a copy of their card-sized COVID-19 proof of vaccination or show it on their phone or tablet. Work is also underway to make proof of vaccination available through a QR code, expected to be available in the coming weeks. Full details [here](#).

Vaccine Update



Pregnancy and Vaccines:

From medical experts around the globe, we want to reiterate there is **no evidence of harm** from mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for those who are pregnant or breastfeeding. The National Advisory Committee on Immunization and the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada recommend that those who are pregnant get a complete series of vaccine. This is because those who are pregnant are at a high risk of severe outcomes due to COVID-19. So far, only unvaccinated individuals who are pregnant have ended up in ICU. If anyone in your Nation is pregnant, trying to become pregnant, or have recently delivered, please encourage them to get both doses of COVID-19 vaccine as soon as possible, to offer their family the best protection possible. Furthermore there is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines cause fertility problems. Studies evaluating male and female fertility metrics after COVID-19 vaccines have not identified any harms to reproductive health, so COVID vaccine is also a good proactive step to take even before pregnancy.

3rd Dose for Immunocompromised Individuals:

On September 10, 2021, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) released updated advice from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) regarding an additional dose of a COVID-19 vaccine in some immunocompromised individuals following a 1- or 2-dose primary series. These recommendations are based on current scientific evidence and NACI's expert opinion. This includes individuals with the following conditions:

- Active treatment for solid tumour or hematologic malignancies
- Receipt of solid-organ transplant and taking immunosuppressive therapy
- Receipt of chimeric antigen receptor (CAR)-T-cell therapy or hematopoietic stem cell transplant (within 2 years of transplantation or taking immunosuppression therapy)
- Moderate to severe primary immunodeficiency (e.g., DiGeorge syndrome, Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome)
- Stage 3 or advanced untreated HIV infection and those with acquired immunodeficiency syndrome
- Active treatment with the following categories of immunosuppressive therapies: anti-B cell therapies (monoclonal antibodies targeting CD19, CD20 and CD22), high-dose systemic corticosteroids (refer to the [Canadian Immunization Guide](#) for suggested definition of high dose steroids), alkylating agents, antimetabolites, or tumor-necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors and other biologic agents that are significantly immunosuppressive.

For individuals who have already received a 1- or 2-dose primary series, the minimum interval between the original series and an additional dose should be 28 days. More info available [here](#).

Vaccine Snapshot

as of September 13th



74,311 doses of vaccine have been administered in **46** Nations (bands) in Alberta.



At least **64.2%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received their **first dose**.



100% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received their first dose.



95.5% of First Nations people aged 65 years and older living on-reserve or crown land have received two doses of the vaccine.



At least **50.5%** of First Nations people living on-reserve or crown land have received **two doses of the vaccine**.